



NSLI-Y Hindi Academic Year 2011-2012 Program Description Implemented by AFS-USA



Target Language: Hindi

Overseas Partner Institution: AFS-India

Overseas Host Institution:
Amity Pushp Vihar, New Delhi, India

Accommodations: Host families

Pre-Departure Orientation: New York City,
immediately before international departure

Program Dates: July 1, 2011 to May 14, 2012

Target Language Instruction:
20 hours per week during the Summer Program;
15 hours per week during the Academic Year

Program Overview

The goal of the NSLI-Y Hindi Academic Year Program in India, administered by AFS, is to rapidly increase students' vocabulary and ability to communicate with confidence in Hindi.

Upon arrival, participants engage in 6 weeks of 20 hour-per-week intensive language lessons alongside the NSLI-Y Summer Program participants. Students receive a total of 120 hours of language lessons in this period. During the academic year, NSLI-Y participants have 15 hours per week of language classes at a local high school. Schools are chosen based on the following factors: location, safety, learning environment, and a proven track record with AFS.

Classrooms provide an authentic and safe environment for students to practice Hindi in all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing, with a focus on speaking and listening. The course is planned in such a way that the teachers and students are able to understand/speak/write spontaneous sentences and phrases in Hindi. Hindi is the primary language of instruction and students are expected to speak only Hindi during class. Students keep a portfolio of their work showcasing their language progress. Students receive evaluations from the language teachers, based on their performance in class, attendance, attitude towards learning the language and culture, and progress in the language as shown in class and on tests or quizzes. The overall school environment provides opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities afterschool programs. Participation in activities outside of the classroom not only enhances the students' knowledge of Indian history, culture, religion, and politics but also gives students the opportunity to interact with peers and use their language in everyday conversation.

Living Arrangements/Participant Support and Supervision

Living with a host family is vital to the language learning and cultural immersion experiences. Families are instructed to speak with students primarily in Hindi in order to provide students with an environment in which they can develop their skills. Students are expected to speak Hindi with their host families as they integrate into the families' daily lives and customs. A bilingual local coordinator monitors the students' safety and well-being, and provides support and supervision to students throughout the year. Students are provided with cell phones for emergency use.

Textbooks and Materials

Hindi textbooks are provided to the students by AFS India. In addition to textbooks, other authentic, current materials and methods are used, including short newspaper articles, radio listening exercises, and other relevant Hindi language materials.

Cultural Activities

The NSLI-Y curriculum includes opportunities for cultural immersion through various activities such as dance, music, and arts and crafts. The program includes three types of cultural activities:

- Community service projects – Participants volunteer with AMITASHA, a school for the underprivileged girls that began as an endeavor to give underprivileged girls a second chance at life. Today, the AMITASHA girls receive free education, uniforms, books, and medical aid and are taught by competent teachers. They revel in co-curricular activities as well. They are confident girls with a high sense of self-esteem.
- Local trips to places of interest – The group visits the Taj Mahal in Agra, Delhi, and additional trips may be organized in consultation with participants.
- Self-guided exploration – Participants are provided with tips on how to practice self-guided exploration in the community and in everyday situations.

All cultural activities are coordinated with language classes as much as possible in order to ensure that students are prepared with the practical vocabulary they will need to participate in community service projects and understand tours. Community service activities provide a practical and real life opportunity for students to use their Hindi. Through activities students learn about Indian culture, religion, and politics. Cultural activities may be recorded by students in their portfolios.

Final Project

Students present and showcase their final language portfolios during a formal gathering of all participants at the end of the program. Students can choose to present on a specific topic in their portfolio, including their experience with cultural activities. The final three days of the language course are devoted to helping students prepare for the final presentation. Final presentation grades are reflected in the final evaluations.

Please keep in mind that program details may be subject to change.